

PEKING REVIEW

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December 27, 1974

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報

**Concentrate a Superior Force to Destroy
The Enemy Forces One by One**

Hail the Just Cause of the Majority

— U.N. General Assembly debate on reviewing the Charter
and strengthening the role of the United Nations

***Thieu's Dictatorial Rule Opposed:
New Storm of Mass Struggle***

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Albanian Ambassador Fetes Chinese Party and Government Delegation

Behar Shtylla, Albanian Ambassador to China, gave a banquet on December 20 in honour of the Chinese Party and Government Delegation just back from Albania after attending the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Albania.

Among the guests were Yao Wen-yuan, leader of the delegation and member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Wu Kuei-hsien, deputy leader of the delegation and Alternate Member of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee; and members of the delegation as well as delegation staff members.

Also present were Chinese Party and state leaders Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Li Hsien-nien, Teng Hsiao-ping, Chen Hsi-lien and Ni Chih-fu.

Ambassador Behar Shtylla and Comrade Yao Wen-yuan proposed toasts at the banquet in which they warmly praised the revolutionary friendship and militant unity of the two Parties, two countries and two peoples of Albania and China.

In his toast, the Ambassador said: Not long ago, the Chinese Party and Government Delegation attended the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Albanian people's revolution and liberation, and this filled the Albanian people with particular elation. It is a vivid manifestation of the great friendship and unbreakable unity of our two countries.

He continued: The Albania-China friendship forged by the Albanian people's great leader Comrade Enver Hoxha and the Chinese people's great leader Comrade Mao Tsetung is

founded on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

The Ambassador added: We witness the revolutionary movement to criticize Lin Biao and Confucius being launched in China. The movement has strengthened the dictatorship of the proletariat in China, striking terror into the hearts of enemies and filling friends with elation.

In conclusion, the Ambassador said that no matter what happens in the world, the Albanian people and the Chinese people will always unite, fight shoulder to shoulder and win victory together.

In his toast, Comrade Yao Wen-yuan said: During its stay in Albania, the Chinese Party and Government Delegation was accorded a most warm welcome and extremely cordial reception wherever it went. We regard this kind of welcome and reception as a vivid embodiment of the profound proletarian internationalist friendship of the Albanian people for the Chinese people.

In a warm tribute, Comrade Yao Wen-yuan said: The 30 years since the liberation of Albania are years in which the Albanian people have advanced in big strides along the road of socialism. They have waged victorious struggles and scored brilliant achievements on all fronts of revolution and construction under the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha.

He said: Albania has incessantly smashed the subversive and disruptive activities by enemies at home and abroad, and consolidated the socialist system of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Albania has continually advanced in the struggle against U.S. imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism and modern revisionism, and her international prestige is constantly rising.

Comrade Yao Wen-yuan continued: When we were in Albania, we held extremely cordial and friendly talks with Comrade Mehmet Shehu and other leading comrades of the Albanian Party and Government, and reached complete unanimity of views. This is a vivid manifestation of the great friendship and unbreakable unity forged by Comrade Enver Hoxha and Comrade Mao Tsetung between our two Parties, countries and peoples. This friendship and unity have been established in the struggle against imperialism, revisionism and reaction and in the course of socialist revolution and socialist construction, based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism; and it has stood a long test. The two Parties, two countries and two peoples of China and Albania will for ever support and encourage each other and advance shoulder to shoulder.

30th Anniversary of Founding Of Viet Nam People's Army Celebrated

December 22 was the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army. All the commanders and fighters of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, together with the people of the whole country, warmly greeted this glorious festival of their Vietnamese comrades-in-arms.

The Chinese Ministry of National Defence held a meeting the previous day to mark the occasion.

Among the guests were members of the Delegation of the People's Army from the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Major-General Nguyen Quyet who came to China to take part in the celebrations of the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army; Nguyen Trong Vinh, D.R.V.N. Ambassador to China; Colonel Le Thao, Military Attache of the D.R.V.N. Embassy; Tran Binh, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the

Embassy of the Republic of South Viet Nam; and officials of the two embassies as well as the touring Liberation Art Troupe from the Republic of South Viet Nam led by Bich Lam.

In his speech at the meeting, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Yang Cheng-wu said: The Viet Nam People's Army is a heroic army founded by the Vietnamese people's great leader President Ho Chi Minh. The 30 years it has traversed are years of heroic struggle and brilliant victories. What is particularly important, under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Viet Nam People's Army, together with the entire Vietnamese people, has waged dauntless struggles against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys over the past ten years or more, and won the great victory in the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation by holding high President Ho Chi Minh's banner of "firm resolve to fight and win," relying on its own strength and bringing into play the might of the people's war.

"Your victories," he said, "have vividly shown the revolutionary people of the whole world that so long as the people of a small nation dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and take the destiny of their country into their own hands, they will surely defeat aggression by a big nation."

After the Paris agreement was signed, he went on, the army and civilians of north Viet Nam have made gratifying achievements in healing the wounds of war, rehabilitating and developing the economy. At the same time, he added, they have continued to maintain high revolutionary vigilance, enhanced their preparedness against war and strengthened national defence and they are ready at all times to frustrate any schemes of the enemy.

He said in conclusion: The revolutionary cause of the people of China and Viet Nam has been closely linked all along. We will for ever remain

both comrades and brothers, and no force can separate us. Following Chairman Mao's teachings, the Chinese people and the Chinese People's Liberation Army will persevere in performing their internationalist duties and continue to support the Vietnamese people in their just struggle till complete victory.

Giving an account of the glorious and militant course traversed by the Viet Nam People's Army over the past three decades, delegation leader Nguyen Quyet said in his speech: After 30 years of fighting and building up, the army has become a modernized people's army with various services and arms. It was commended by President Ho Chi Minh on many occasions. It is loyal to the Party and the people. It has acquired a high degree of political consciousness and is ready at all times to fight valiantly for the independence, freedom and socialist cause of the fatherland.

He continued: The army and civilians in north Viet Nam are now engaging in socialist construction on a new scale. Our compatriots and fighters in the south are defeating the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialist-supported Nguyen Van Thieu clique in violation of the Paris agreement and steadily propelling the revolution forward.

In conclusion, he said: The Vietnamese people and the Viet Nam People's Army will, as always, go all out to nurture the great friendship and militant unity of the people of Viet Nam and China so that it will remain ever green.

Colonel Le Thao, Military Attache of the D.R.V.N. Embassy, gave a reception on December 22 to celebrate the founding anniversary. Attending the reception were Hsu Hsiang-chien, Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Yang Cheng-wu, Deputy Chief of the P.L.A. General Staff; and responsible personnel of the departments concerned.

On December 22, *Renmin Ribao* reprinted Jiefangjun Bao's editorial "Warmly Celebrate the Glorious Festival of the Vietnamese Comrades-in-arms."

Zairese President Ends China Visit

President Mobutu and his party concluded their friendly visit to China and left Kwangchow for home by special plane on December 22.

While in Peking, President Mobutu held talks with Chinese leaders. Accompanied by Ngapo Ngawang-Jigme, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the distinguished guests left for Nanking and Kwangchow, visiting the Nanking Yangtze River Bridge, the Chinese Export Commodities Fair, a unit of the People's Liberation Army and some places of historical interest.

Before leaving China, President Mobutu asked Ngapo Ngawang-Jigme to convey his thanks to Chairman Mao and Premier Chou.

Republic of South Viet Nam Liberation Art Troupe

The Liberation Art Troupe of the Republic of South Viet Nam was in China from November 27 to December 17 for a performance tour.

While the troupe was in Peking, Chinese state leaders Yeh Chien-ying, Chiang Ching, Li Hsien-nien and Hsu Hsiang-chien saw a performance by the Vietnamese comrades-in-arms and met and had a cordial and friendly talk with Bich Lam and A-Nay Nhoan, leader and deputy leader of the troupe, Pham Thai, the art director, and representatives of the artists.

The group gave 13 performances in Peking, Shanghai and Kwangchow. Its excellent presentations were warmly welcomed by the Chinese audiences.

Concentrate a Superior Force to Destroy The Enemy Forces One by One

by Kun Chun

FROM the outset, China's revolutionary war was fought in the face of a big and powerful enemy. This being the case, how should our army cope with the enemy and fight battles became an important question which had to be solved. Using the Marxist-Leninist stand, viewpoint and method, Chairman Mao incisively analysed the laws of China's revolutionary war and set forth a series of strategic and tactical principles and methods of fighting concerning this war. The principle of fighting known as concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one is an important component part of Chairman Mao's military thinking and the core of our army's strategic and tactical principles. It is also a scientific method of thinking and work which we must master in carrying out revolution and construction.

The emancipation of the proletariat, Engels pointed out, will also have a particular military expression and will create a special, new method of war. Concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one is precisely a special and new method of fighting for the people's army, a method which Chairman Mao created while leading the Chinese people in protracted revolutionary struggle. It correctly reflects the general laws of war and the specific laws of China's revolutionary war and graphically embodies Marxist materialism and dialectics in strategic and tactical principles.

Chief Material Condition for Destroying the Enemy and Gaining the Initiative

Marxism holds that war is a motion of matter. Victory or defeat in a war is determined by the military, political, economic and natural conditions of both sides as well as by each side's subjective ability in directing the war. In our efforts to win a war, we cannot overstep the limitations imposed by material conditions; within these limitations, however, we can and should give full play to the dynamic role of subjective ability in directing the war and strive for victory. Both sides in a war do all they can to gain the initiative so as to seize victory. However, "the initiative is not something imaginary but is concrete and material. Here the most important thing is to conserve and mass an armed force that is as large as possible and full of fighting spirit." (Mao Tsetung: *Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War*.)

Concentrating a superior force is the chief material condition for destroying the enemy forces and gaining the initiative. Since all reactionaries are paper tigers,

we had every assurance and confidence in defeating the attacks of all reactionaries at home and abroad in China's protracted revolutionary war. But since it was a phenomenon of objective reality that the enemy was strong and we were weak, we could only win victory by taking the enemy seriously, paying special attention to the art of struggle and concentrating all our efforts in fighting battles as regards each specific struggle. This called for applying the principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one not only to troop disposition for a campaign but also to troop disposition for a battle. Chairman Mao pointed out: "Our strategy is 'pit one against ten' and our tactics are 'pit ten against one'—this is one of our fundamental principles for gaining mastery over the enemy." (*Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War*.) In every battle, we must concentrate an absolutely superior force, using several divisions to deal with an enemy division, several tens of thousands of men to deal with ten thousand enemy troops and several detachments to deal with one enemy detachment, so as to encircle the enemy forces completely, strive to wipe them out thoroughly and not let any escape from the net. In this way, victory in war was built on a solid and reliable material basis.

Application of the Law of Unity of Opposites

The law of the unity of opposites is the fundamental law of the universe. There is at once unity and struggle between the opposites in a contradiction, and it is this that impels things to move and change. The principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one is a concrete application of this law in directing a revolutionary war. It tells us how to size up and deal with the enemy by using the materialist-dialectical theory that things are infinitely divisible, how to correctly assess the situation in which the enemy was strong while we were weak and effect its transformation and how to fundamentally change the position between the enemy and ourselves and seize victory in war according to the laws governing quantitative and qualitative changes.

Chairman Mao pointed out: "In society as in nature, every entity invariably breaks up into its different parts, only there are differences in content and form under different concrete conditions." (*Speech at the Chinese Communist Party's National Conference on Propaganda Work*.) Contradictions exist in all things and everything can be divided. Big and small form a unity of opposites. A big thing can be divided into

many small parts which in turn can be divided into still smaller parts. A huge armed-to-the-teeth monster, the enemy in China's revolutionary war consisted of reactionaries with massive military power who received aid from the world's major imperialist countries. However huge, it was made up of small parts which could be broken up. Truculent and blustering, Chiang Khashék for some time boasted of having several million troops, but actually he was not so powerful. We could divide them into many small parts and wipe them out piecemeal. So long as we know how to look at the enemy from the viewpoint of breaking him up, we are able to deal with him by adopting the method of "divide and annihilate." As Chairman Mao said, "In war, battles can only be fought one by one and the enemy forces can only be destroyed one by one. Factories can only be built one by one. The peasants can only plough the land plot by plot. The same is even true of eating a meal. Strategically, we take the eating of a meal lightly — we know we can finish it. But actually we eat it mouthful by mouthful. It is impossible to swallow an entire banquet in one gulp. This is known as a piecemeal solution. In military parlance, it is called wiping out the enemy forces one by one." (Speech at the Moscow Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties, November 18, 1957.) It is impossible for us to destroy all the enemy forces at one go, but on the basis of concentrating a superior force we can finish them off by adopting the method of wiping them out one by one.

Just as there is nothing in the world without a dual nature, so both sides in a war have a dual nature. The enemy had both a strong and a weak aspect and we had both a weak and a strong aspect. Strong as he was, the enemy was on the decline and his strength would be transformed into weakness; weak as we were, we were developing and growing in strength and our weakness would be transformed into strength. But the enemy's strength and our weakness could be transformed into their opposites only under given conditions. The most important of these conditions was the correctness of our political and military lines. We were inferior in number and in strength, but we defeated the enemy who was strong and superior numerically; this, however, did not in any way mean that victory was won through "weakness," rather, we relied on our own subjective efforts to bring about a transformation in the balance of forces and make ourselves strong. "The method is to create local superiority and initiative in many campaigns, so depriving the enemy of local superiority and initiative and plunging him into inferiority and passivity." (Mao Tsetung: *On Protracted War*.) We must be adept at concentrating our troops to pick out the enemy's weaker units for attack one by one so as to ensure our absolute or relative superiority over the enemy troops locally and in each campaign or battle. In this way, the enemy forces which were in a strong position in terms of the situation as a whole would become weak locally while our army which was in a weak position on the whole would be in a strong position locally.

Pitting our local superiority and initiative against the enemy's local inferiority and passivity, we first inflicted one sharp defeat on him and then turned on the rest of his forces to smash them one by one, thus ensuring victory in each local campaign or battle. In China's revolutionary war, it was precisely because we used the law of the unity of opposites to correctly size up the situation in which the enemy was strong and we were weak and adopted the method of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one to change such a situation that we succeeded in turning the enemy's strong position on the whole into weakness in part and turning our weak position on the whole into strength in part, thereby changing the relationship between strength and weakness in the overall situation.

The movement of opposites in things involves a process of going from quantitative change to partial qualitative change and then to complete qualitative change. The accumulation of quantitative change to a certain extent inevitably gives rise to qualitative change. Concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one embodies the process of dialectical development from quantitative accumulation to qualitative leap in the balance of forces between the enemy and ourselves in the revolutionary war. Chairman Mao pointed out: "War is a contest of strength, but the original pattern of strength changes in the course of war." (*On Protracted War*.) Being weak and small at the beginning, our army was strategically in a temporarily inferior and passive position. By correctly employing the principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one, however, we aimed chiefly at annihilating the enemy's effective strength and as far as possible fought campaigns or battles of annihilation so that when we wiped out one regiment, the enemy would have one regiment less, and when we wiped out one division, he would have one division less, thereby effecting a decrease in the enemy's strength and an increase in our own strength, which was a change favourable to us but unfavourable to him. Many big and small battles of annihilation would add up to a fundamental change in the balance of forces between the enemy and ourselves, thus enabling our strength to grow from small to big and rise to predominance and making the enemy's strength shrink from big to small until he is gradually destroyed completely. The implementation of the principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one promoted the development of the balance of forces between the enemy and ourselves from quantitative to qualitative change and from local to total qualitative change. This was of great importance in directing the war as a whole.

During the War of Liberation (1946-49), Chairman Mao took firm hold of the crucial link of changing the relative strength of effectives between the enemy and ourselves and gave a series of clear instructions to our army concerning its tasks of annihilating the enemy forces at each stage, thereby propelling the development of the war situation throughout the coun-

try and hastening the victorious advance of the War of Liberation. In the first eight months of the war, our army put 710,000 enemy troops out of action, forcing the enemy to switch from an all-out offensive to attacks on key points, and began going over to a strategic counter-offensive in some areas. With 1.12 million enemy troops wiped out after a year's fighting, Chairman Mao, basing himself on the new balance of forces, put forward the task of launching a country-wide counter-offensive, that is, using our main forces to fight our way to exterior lines and carrying the war into the Kuomintang-controlled areas and wiping out large numbers of the enemy forces on the exterior lines. By the third year of the War of Liberation, the state of numerical inferiority long undergone by our army had changed as a result of the enemy forces falling from 4.3 million in the early period of the war to about 2.9 million and our army increasing from 1.2 million to more than 3 million. This was a momentous change in the military situation in China's War of Liberation. In such a situation, Chairman Mao put forward the principle of fighting strategically decisive battles against the enemy. He personally made the decision and directed the three great campaigns—the Liaohsi-Shenyang, the Huai-Hai and the Peiping-Tientsin campaigns*—in which the crack troops on which Chiang Kai-shek relied for waging the counter-revolutionary civil war were virtually annihilated.

Based on People's War

Concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one is based on people's war; it is a principle of fighting for the people's army. With a clear-cut class nature, it can be mastered and applied only by an army of the proletariat and its tremendous power can be brought into play only in people's war. Though the enemy was well acquainted with this method of fighting of ours, his idealist and metaphysical world outlook and the anti-popular nature of his war determined that he could never understand and use this method. No matter how hard he tried, he just could not succeed in preventing us from winning victory and in averting his own defeat.

"The concentration of troops seems easy but is quite hard in practice. Everybody knows that the best way is to use a large force to defeat a small one, and

* These were the three greatest campaigns of decisive significance in the Chinese People's War of Liberation. The Liaohsi-Shenyang campaign was fought by the Northeast People's Liberation Army in the western part of Liaoning Province and in the Shenyang-Chongchun area between September 12 and November 2, 1948. It resulted in the wiping out of more than 470,000 enemy troops and liberating the whole of northeast China. Fought between November 6, 1948 and January 10, 1949, the Huai-Hai campaign was carried out by the People's Liberation Army over a large territory centring on Hsuehchow in northern Kiangsu Province and extending as far as Haichow in the east, Shangchiu in Honan Province in the west, Lincheng (now renamed Hsuehcheng) in southern Shantung Province in the north and the Huai River in the south, with 555,000 Kuomintang crack troops put out of action. The Peiping-Tientsin campaign began early in December 1948 and ended on January 31, 1949 when Peiping was peacefully liberated. Over 520,000 Kuomintang troops were put out of action or reorganized by us in the campaign.

yet many people fail to do so and on the contrary often divide their forces up." (Mao Tsetung: *Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War*.) In the final analysis, this is a question of ideological and political line. The principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one formulated by Chairman Mao stems from the dialectical-materialist world outlook and methodology. Whether or not we should uphold this principle of fighting is, at roots, a question of whether or not we should adhere to Marxist materialism and dialectics. "Epistemologically speaking, the source of all erroneous views on war lies in idealist and mechanistic tendencies on the question." (Mao Tsetung: *On Protracted War*.)

The chieftains of the opportunist lines within the Party were idealists characterized by the breach between the subjective and the objective and the separation of knowledge from practice. Proceeding from their idealist and metaphysical world outlook, they spared no effort to push an opportunist line politically and in military affairs and, with regard to the guiding thought in directing operations, they did everything possible to oppose Chairman Mao's principle of fighting. They either totally disregarded the objective reality that the enemy was strong and we were weak, took the enemy lightly and engaged in blind action, attacking him in all directions and "striking with two fists," or regarded the enemy as monolithic, fearing him as if he were a tiger and not daring to make attacks. They had one thing in common which was looking at problems in an isolated, one-sided and rigid manner, and they were advocates of idealist and mechanistic approaches to the question of war.

The renegade and traitor Lin Piao consistently took the Right opportunist stand, energetically carried out military equalitarianism and opposed Chairman Mao's correct principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one. As early as the Second Revolutionary Civil War period (1927-37), Lin Piao worked overtime to trumpet the idea that it was impossible for us to operate with concentrated forces and that all we could do was to divide them up for defence and go in for what he called "short swift thrusts." During the War of Liberation and after nationwide victory, he openly peddled the so-called "six tactical principles" fabricated by his subjective imagination in opposition to Chairman Mao's ten major principles of operation* and used what he called the "tactic of one point and two directions" to oppose the principle of concentrating troops, encircling the enemy forces from all directions and destroying them one by one. Lin Piao's so-called tactical principles are a hotchpotch of idealism and mechanism and a typical example of metaphysics and scholasticism.

Applicable to Other Work

We apply the principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one in fight-

* See Part III of "The Present Situation and Our Tasks" in *Selected Works of Mao Tsetung* Vol. IV, or *Peking Review*, No. 59, 1974, p. 9.

ing battles, and we should do the same in all other work. In a sense, the cause of socialist revolution and construction is more profound, complicated and arduous than fighting battles. We must be daring in waging struggles and be good at it. Much work has to be done, many difficulties have to be overcome and many problems have to be solved. Though there are lots of work, difficulties and problems, we must, like fighting battles, grasp the principal contradiction, determine the direction of our main attack, correctly organize and use our forces and concentrate them to achieve a piecemeal solution. It is imperative to grasp the typical examples well and make a breakthrough at one point so as to further our work as a whole, and "as regards the work as a whole, it is first necessary to grasp one-third of it well." It is essential to take firm hold of those key points which are the most necessary and weakest but which have great influence on others, and concentrate our efforts to fight a war of annihilation and solve problems one by one or by groups, so as to achieve the aim of "first, complete annihilation and, second, quick decision." (Mao Tsetung: *Concentrate a Superior Force to Destroy the Enemy Forces One by One*.)

If, on the contrary, we divide up our forces and move ahead simultaneously, the result is bound to be "strike everywhere without enough strength anywhere, losing time and making it hard to get results." (*Concentrate a Superior Force to Destroy the Enemy Forces One by One*.) Over the years, we have made great achievements in socialist construction by implementing Chairman Mao's principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one. It is by relying on the masses, concentrating our efforts, pooling the support from all quarters and adopting the method of working in close co-operation and

co-ordination that we have built many giant construction projects and produced many products of advanced levels. This is of paramount importance to speeding up the cause of our socialist construction and seizing new victories in grasping revolution, promoting production and other work and preparedness against war.

To carry out the principle of concentrating a superior force to destroy the enemy forces one by one, it is necessary to strengthen the Party's centralized and unified leadership. The fundamental guarantee for the thorough implementation of this principle lies in achieving unity in thinking, policy, plan, command and action on the basis of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. Without centralization, co-ordination and unity, concentrating troops to fight a war of annihilation is bound to become empty talk. Thus it is imperative for us to consciously strengthen the Party's centralized and unified leadership, closely rally around the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao, bring into play all positive factors, unite with all the forces that can be united and as far as possible turn negative factors into positive ones. Only thus can we put into practice the principle of concentrating our forces to fight battles of annihilation in all fields of work and advance in step to promote the still greater development of the cause of revolution and construction.

"The correctness or incorrectness of the ideological and political line decides everything." The victory in China's revolutionary war is a victory for Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and the result of Chairman Mao's military line defeating the bourgeois military line pushed by Wang Ming, Lin Biao and their like.

(A slightly abridged translation of an article in "Hongqi," No. 12, 1974. Subheads are ours.)

At United Nations

Can Mantes Stop a Cart? Not a Chance

THE two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, fiercely attacked the Third World countries shortly before the adjournment of the 29th Session of the U.N. General Assembly when it discussed the questions on the review of the U.N. Charter and strengthening the role of the United Nations. Taking advantage of the deliberations, the two superpowers tried to strangle the Third World countries' just struggle to review the Charter and make the United Nations mirror the aspirations of the small and medium-sized countries; they also tried to stem the torrential currents of the Third World's struggle against imperialism and hegemonism.

This attempt by the two superpowers was, however, frustrated by the resolute struggle of the Third World countries and once again ended in ignominious failure.

A draft resolution was submitted by representatives of the Philippines, Argentina and other countries calling for the establishment of an ad hoc committee to consider various governments' observations and suggestions on the review of the U.N. Charter. Since this represented the strong desire of the numerous small and medium-sized countries to change the unreasonable situation of the United Nations being under the superpowers' control, and since it also conformed to the reality of large numbers of new member states having been admitted to the United Nations, the draft resolution had won the approval and support of many countries.

Soviet social-imperialism, which clung to its own privileged status in the United Nations and stuck to its hegemonic policies, was bitter against this just

U.N. General Assembly Adjourns

The 29th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, which was opened on September 17, adjourned on December 18. In three months' time, more than one hundred items on the agenda were discussed. Thanks to the joint efforts by Third World countries which engaged themselves in a dogged fight, resolutions favourable to the struggle against superpower hegemonism, imperialism, colonialism and Zionism were adopted. Among them were resolutions on the questions of Palestine and decolonization and on the rejection of the participation of South African regime's delegation in the work of the session. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, initiated by Mexico and submitted in the name of the 77 group, was also adopted.

In the course of debate at the General Assembly and its various committees, representatives of many countries denounced the two superpowers for their hegemonist practices. The Third World countries also strongly opposed and condemned the United States for its despicable acts of impeding the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia in the United Nations and refusing to withdraw all foreign troops stationed in south Korea under the flag of the United Nations.

The General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 17 to establish a 42-member ad hoc committee to consider suggestions concerning the review of the U.N. Charter. China voted in favour. The Soviet Union and the United States voted against.

demand of the Third World countries. During the debate, Soviet Representative Malik sniped at countries standing for a review of the Charter, accusing them of being "reactionary forces" intending to break up the foundation of the Charter and send the organization to its doom. He even threatened that a "paralysis and collapse of the organization" or even a "third world war" would result once the principle of the veto power in the Security Council was modified or abolished, claiming that this principle was the "cornerstone of the Charter." In the wild posture of superpower hegemonism, he told representatives from more than one hundred countries not to discuss matters on reviewing the Charter any more.

Malik must have expected that the Third World countries would yield to his intimidation and do as they were told to. But he apparently miscalculated.

One after another, representatives of the Third World countries sternly rebuffed and forcefully exposed the Soviet revisionists' ulterior motive in opposing a review of the U.N. Charter. It was malicious for the delegation of a permanent member of the Security Council, they pointed out, to accuse countries advocating a review of the Charter of sabotaging the organization from

within. The multitude of member states which had not participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization have every right to express their views on the shortcomings of the Charter and make suggestions for its revision. Isn't it absurd that a permanent member of the Security Council, which once talked a blue streak about the principle of sovereign equality of states should now insist on its privileged status and use this to keep the majority of the international community from realizing their aspirations? Circumstances have changed since 1945 when the United Nations was founded, and the Charter is no longer applicable to the present world, many representatives added. The Charter, drawn up by people, can also be revised by people. Those who attempt to obstruct with threats discussions on the review of the Charter must bear in mind that many countries had made clear during the session that they would defy any threats.

The strong refutation by the Third World countries thus put the Soviet delegation in an extremely isolated position. It had to withdraw before the time to vote its own draft resolution which opposed a discussion of reviewing the Charter and had little support. In contrast, the number of countries sponsoring the draft resolution first tabled by the Philippines and Argentina among others jumped from 16 to 33 within a few days and the resolution was adopted at the General Assembly on December 17 by an overwhelming majority of 32 to 15 — a caustic reply by the united and militant Third World against the Soviet revisionists.

At the time the question on strengthening the role of the United Nations was being discussed at plenary meetings of the General Assembly, U.S. Representative John A. Scali slandered the Third World countries as exercising in the U.N. a "tyranny of the majority." Blatantly talking about "different responsibilities" for U.N. members of "different capabilities" because of differences in size, population and wealth, he tried to find a "theoretical basis" for maintaining the superpowers' dominant position in the United Nations. He went so far as to threaten that the United States would stop paying its membership dues or making contributions to the United Nations if the superpowers could not enjoy privileges in the organization. The Soviet representative privately welcomed Scali's statement as "reasonable," though he did not dare to say so at the meetings.

The U.S. representative's absurd statement also aroused indignation among the Third World countries. Representatives of dozens of countries came down on it in their speeches. They declared that imperialism and the superpowers should never be allowed to act in a wilful and arbitrary way in the United Nations as they did in the past. U.N. affairs should be managed jointly by all member states. All countries, big or small, should be equal.

It is not difficult to tell who has been carrying out a "tyranny of the majority" if one looks back at the history of the United Nations. History shows that it is precisely those who now participate in assaults

on the Third World countries had manipulated the majority to obstruct the restoration to the People's Republic of China of its lawful rights in the United Nations. One representative has put it well: "The majority of yesteryears was benevolent because the United States endorsed it, but today's majority is tyrannical." This is the U.S. logic.

In the face of stern criticism by representatives of the Third World countries, the once insolent Mr. Scall said no more. All he could do was to equivocate at the end of the debate: "I am encouraged that the debate has taken a constructive turn and has become a positive dialogue."

(Hsinhua dispatch from U.N., December 20)

Hail the Just Cause of the Majority

by Jen Ku-ping

OF late, a heated debate on the "majority" and the "minority" question took place at the U.N. General Assembly.

The representative of one superpower launched an outrageous attack on the Third World countries. He declared that "when the rule of the majority becomes the tyranny of the majority, the minority will cease to respect or obey it." He blatantly asserted that U.N. members' "authority" has to be weighed in accordance with their size, population and wealth. For nations of "different capabilities," there are "different responsibilities." In other words, the superpowers should enjoy in the United Nations the privileges which ordinary members cannot possess. As soon as this absurd statement was made, it aroused indignation and was refuted firmly by the Third World countries.

The debate was actually a struggle between justice and injustice and as such, a struggle by the Third World countries against the superpowers' hegemonism, although it seemed to be an argument over the interpretation of words like "majority" and "minority." It reflects the excellent situation in which the Third World countries grow in strength. It also reflects the decline of the superpowers' hegemony and the helpless isolated position they have wound up in.

Whether the Third World countries and people can occupy a "majority" or "minority" position in the international arena is closely related to whether they have their rights or not. In the past, although the population of the Third World countries accounted for the overwhelming majority of the world population, most of these countries were deprived of their rights, because they were subjected in varying degrees to aggression, oppression, interference and control by imperialism, colonialism and the superpowers. Some could not join the United Nations because they had not attained independence while others were unjustifiably deprived of their legitimate rights in the world body. Those admitted to the organization were unable to get due response to their just propositions because the United Nations was controlled by the superpowers. At that time, the imperialists and superpowers threw their weight about

in bullying the small countries. Under the slightest pretext, they manipulated their voting machine to adopt this resolution or that proposal to legalize the evil they did. They were so cocky at being in the "majority" that they thought they had the final say in everything.

However, a great change has taken place in the United Nations in the past few years as more and more Third World countries gained independence, and their militant unity has become stronger than ever. Many representatives of the Third World countries came forward heads high and sternly condemned imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, hegemonism, Zionism and racism at the U.N. forum. They firmly safeguarded their state sovereignty, independence and natural resources. They supported and sympathized with each other in their common struggle, and built up a strong majority force. It is no longer easy for the imperialists and superpowers to impose their will on others, bully others as they like and do evil in the name of the United Nations. From their previous position of a false majority they have become a real minority.

In a plight as described by the Chinese verse, "Flowers fall off, do what one may," the representative of one superpower became desperate and flew into a rage, slandering the joint struggle waged by the Third World countries in the United Nations for a common objective as the "tyranny of the majority." In the eyes of that gentleman, it is simply lawless and terrible for these small, impoverished countries to rise in revolt and reverse what had been a practice in the United Nations.

Such an outburst, as a matter of fact, is as futile as it is outrageous. For years you have exercised tyranny over the Third World countries, claiming that you were in the "majority." Should this unjust, unreasonable practice be allowed to go on for ever? Now that the Third World countries have united themselves in a common front and demonstrated their strength, should their "majority" obey your "minority"? Why shouldn't the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people be allowed to appear at the United Nations to denounce aggression and uphold justice while, under your aegis,

the representative of Israeli Zionism usurped the U.N. rostrum to viciously falsify the Middle East situation and maliciously slandered and attacked the Palestinian and Arab people? Why should the South African racist regime be allowed to suppress the black people in cold blood at home while the Third World countries are not permitted to take concerted action to apply moral sanctions against it? Countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution. This is the irresistible historical trend in the present-day world. The change of the Third World countries from being denied their rights to enjoying their rights in the United Nations and from the minority to the majority is the very reflection of this historical trend. It once again vividly demonstrates the great truth of Chairman Mao's thesis: "A just cause enjoys abundant support while an unjust cause finds little support."

Ridiculously enough, while many of the Third World countries were condemning that superpower for its tyrannical practice at the United Nations, the other superpower, which flaunts the banner of socialism, came out with sanctimonious professions of support for them, claiming that it, too, had been a victim of imperialism's "tyranny of the majority." But this shameless opportunist pose is completely futile. Everybody knows that this superpower worked with might

and main at the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to block and foil the reasonable proposals of the Third World to safeguard state sovereignty and protect national resources, and opposed the just struggle of the Latin American people to uphold their 200-mile maritime sovereignty. Everybody sees that it has many times revealed its true features as an arrogant arch-despot at the U.N. meetings and other international conferences. Obviously, it is not the victim of tyranny, but the victimizer.

If this superpower were the victim as it made itself out to be in order to mislead others, why at the same time should it attack the just demand of the Third World countries for a revision of the United Nations Charter and even raised the alarm, asserting that nuclear war would break out once the Charter is revised? Clearly, it is trying in every way, by bluff or deception, to bolster its shaken despotic role in the United Nations so that it can go ahead with its evil doings under the United Nations flag.

The struggle at the United Nations General Assembly against superpower hegemonism over the question of "majority" and "minority" has greatly raised Third World morale and deflated the arrogance of the hegemonic superpowers. Hail the Third World's just majority in the United Nations!

Thieu's Dictatorial Rule Opposed

New Storms of Mass Struggle

THE south Vietnamese people in Saigon-held areas in recent months have thrown themselves into a tempestuous struggle against Nguyen Van Thieu's dictatorial rule and bellicose acts. Public sentiment prevailing in the struggle was represented by the demand for peace, democratic freedom, national reconciliation and concord, and implementation of the Paris agreement.

September saw the biggest demonstration in years erupt in Hue, third largest city in south Viet Nam. On September 8, more than 5,000 people paraded for nearly two hours in opposition to Thieu's dictatorial rule. This was followed by a rally at which the Thieu clique's fascist crimes were vehemently denounced. Parades and demonstrations supporting the just struggle of their compatriots in Hue soon spread to places like Da Nang, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh, Pleiku and Bien Hoa. The people in Saigon persisted in their struggle by staging mammoth demonstrations in September and October. By the end of the latter month, the struggle had reached a new high, "paralysing the life of Saigon, a city of 3 million inhabitants."

Nguyen Van Thieu — the Immediate Target

Those involved in this just struggle of the south Vietnamese people represented very broad social strata

there. Alongside workers, peasants and young students, there were people of the Catholic faith, Buddhists and journalists, as well as members of the bogus parliament and demobbed servicemen. Bare-handed but highly militant demonstrators, who burnt down police vans and attacked the building housing the so-called "national assembly," grappled with the police and military forces who came to suppress them. The immediate target of the struggle was Nguyen Van Thieu, head of the bogus regime. "Down with Nguyen Van Thieu" rang out everywhere. Some people showed their determination to fight to the finish in messages written in blood; others burnt Thieu in effigy.

Anti-Thieu organizations have mushroomed in the Saigon-held areas. Among the 20-odd such organizations, the People's Movement Against Corruption, in its Indictment No. 1, listed the six major criminal offences of this kind committed by Thieu, his family and henchmen. A statement by the People's Organization for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement demanded that Thieu must go, accusing him of having refused to honour the agreement. As the resistance of the people of different social strata mounted, opposition members in the "house of representatives" proposed that the so-called national assembly adopt a resolution to impeach Thieu.

Apart from suppressing the demonstrators and the press and making arrests at the start of the struggle, Thieu called a series of emergency meetings, proclaimed curfews, mapped out plans for assassinations and sent special agents and reactionary politicians out to carry out sabotages. But these fascist measures of repression aroused stronger popular resistance. Overawed by the formidable strength of the mass struggle, Thieu found it necessary to resort more and more to deceptive means. He had a large number of officials removed from office, reshuffled his "cabinet" and promised to amend the reactionary decrees restricting "freedom of press" and banning activities by the various political parties.

Logical Consequence of Fascist Rule

This storm against Thieu's dictatorial rule does not come from nowhere. It is the logical result of the fascist rule imposed by the Thieu clique which has persisted in selling itself out to U.S. imperialism and wrecking the Paris agreement.

Since the signing of the agreement early last year, the clique has refused to implement the main provisions of the agreement and continued pushing its so-called policy of "pacification" in the Saigon-held areas by military operations aimed at "nibbling away" at the areas led by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. This is why gunfire has never really died out in south Viet Nam and tension still persists.

Under the dictatorial rule of the Thieu clique, the life of the people in the Saigon-held areas is extremely miserable. Millions of people have been herded into concentration camps and several hundred thousand patriots are still under detention. The bogus regime's special agents, police and the military ride roughshod over the people. Between the end of January 1973 and the end of June this year, they launched more than 317,000 "pacification" military operations against the people in areas under their control; over 4 million people were persecuted or purged; unwarranted arrests, third-degree torture and detentions came to more than 70,000 occasions.

From day to day the financial and economic situation in the Saigon-held areas is deteriorating — a sharp decline in both industrial and agricultural production, a business slump and soaring prices. According to the Saigon press, industrial production in these areas went down 30 per cent in the first half of 1974 compared with the corresponding period in 1973. Agricultural production too has been paralysed. Southern Viet Nam used to be a land of abundance, known as a big rice producer and exporter. Now the countryside is in a shambles and the large tracts of farmland lying waste have resulted in reduced rice production. Large numbers of peasants roam city streets begging. In recent years, the Saigon regime has been forced to import some 700,000

to 800,000 tons of rice annually; the rice supply this year is even worse. The Saigon-held areas are now threatened by serious famine and people are starving to death in the streets of some cities.

To cover the colossal war expenses, the regime has turned to exorbitant tax levies and indiscriminate printing of banknotes. The currency was devalued eight times between last January and July. Consumer prices have zoomed 50 to 200 per cent.

All these perverse acts of the Thieu clique have greatly aggravated its contradictions with the broad masses. The people of various social strata are now at the limit of their endurance. More and more have come to realize that as long as Nguyen Van Thieu remains in power it is impossible to implement the Paris agreement, they won't be able to live a decent life and have democratic freedom, and the fulfilment of national reconciliation and concord is out of the question.

Rising Workers' Movement

What merits attention is that the workers' movement is now boiling up. The masses of workers are fighting dismissals, demanding that the regime do something about the growing serious unemployment problem and recognize their right to live and strike. The General Labour Confederation of the Saigon-Gia Dinh area held a special meeting asking the Thieu regime to abrogate its reactionary decrees restricting workers' activities, adjust wages and not to dismiss workers' representatives who took part in the struggle. At another meeting by over 1,000 workers in foreign firms in Long Binh, Vung Tau and Can Tho, the Thieu regime was called on to negotiate with the foreign owners to protect the rights of Vietnamese workers at these enterprises and treat women workers respectfully. Workers at the Da Nang port went on a hunger strike demanding a solution of the unemployment problem. Striking workers at the Lien Phuong Textile Company in Gia Dinh demanded wage increases and the right to send to the "committee of the workers' representatives" their own people to protect their legitimate rights. Workers' struggles also have taken place in Hue, Phu Yen, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh, Qui Nhon and other cities for higher wages and better living conditions.

At the same time, the masses in the vast countryside have also joined the ranks of those battling the Thieu clique, while people of various social strata are fighting conscription. All these have converged into a tremendous force that is hitting the Thieu clique hard.

The contradiction between the masses in the Saigon-held areas and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique is irreconcilable. This is the fundamental cause of the never-ending mass struggle since the signing of the Paris agreement. Despite the counter-revolutionary dual tactics of suppression and deception the Thieu clique will adopt, the people in areas under its control will not be cowed or fooled. The struggle will go on until the south Vietnamese people win final victory in their just cause.

Soviet Revisionists Lord It Over North European Waters

THE waters adjacent to the North European countries have been the first to fall prey to Soviet revisionist overlordism in the contest for maritime hegemony between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Barents Sea north of Scandinavia is an unimpeded passage to distant oceans for Soviet fleets. Murmansk Port on the southern shore of this sea, which is ice-free all the year round due to the warm currents from Norway's Nordkapp (North Cape), is an important naval base of the Soviet Union. The Baltic Sea south-east of the peninsula is the shortest route to the Atlantic for Soviet fleets, and the Norwegian Sea and the North Sea, west and southwest of Scandinavia, are also waters Soviet fleets often cruise in. Soviet revisionism has deployed massive forces in the north flank of Europe in an attempt to control the Norwegian Sea and the North Atlantic. The Soviet navy's two major fleets, the North Fleet and the Baltic Fleet, are stationed at the gate of North European countries. It is reported that the two fleets account for about 40 to 50 per cent of Soviet cruisers and for 55 per cent of Soviet frigates.

In the last ten years, the Soviet revisionists have rapidly increased their naval strength in stepping up the pursuit of their policy of maritime expansion. Their fleets have cruised and manoeuvred more and more frequently in the Barents Sea and the Baltic Sea. They even have extended their activities into the Norwegian Sea, the North Sea and the middle part of the North Atlantic Ocean. The Western press has disclosed that the Soviet revisionists have already put their naval forward "defensive line" along Greenland-Iceland-Faroe Islands and are pushing it further into the Atlantic. The frequent presence of 45 per cent of the Soviet main surface naval vessels and over 60 per cent of the Soviet

submarines in North European seas is seriously threatening the security of nearby countries. The Western press has pointed out that the Baltic Sea has already become "a recognized Russian lake."

As early as October 1968, the Soviet revisionists had massed 50 naval vessels in the Norwegian Sea. In 1970, they made a show of their force by holding a global military exercise in nine sea zones, including the Barents Sea, the Norwegian Sea, the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and the Sea of Japan. It lasted about a month with over 100 naval vessels participating. Manoeuvres, big or small, are conducted almost every year. In May this year, the Soviet revisionists' fleets held another big exercise in waters about 400 nautical miles north of Britain, causing great concern in Britain, Norway, the Netherlands and other countries.

With their fleets running wild and ruling supreme over the Barents Sea, the Baltic Sea and other seas, the Soviet revisionists pay no heed to coastal countries. In July 1973, a Soviet destroyer forced a Danish naval vessel to change course on the high seas in the Baltic, an act which aroused indignation in Danish government circles and was described as a typical example of the Soviet Union bullying the weak. In August 1973, a Soviet freighter in violation of Swedish port regulations, carried over 70 unregistered naval cadets to a Swedish port with ulterior motives and it was secretly equipped with electronic instruments for spying purposes. When Swedish authorities discovered this, the freighter was expelled from the port. On May 15 this year, a Soviet submarine sneaked into the territorial waters south of Sweden to gather intelligence on Swedish military exercises. It slipped away after being tracked and fired on by Swedish naval vessels.

The Soviet revisionists' military threats on the sea have aroused the vigilance of the North European countries and people. Denmark's Defence Headquarters in a 1972 report said that the Soviet naval and air forces had established maritime hegemony in the Baltic, North and Norwegian Seas. Norway's Defence Ministry also pointed out in a report that Soviet military expansion around Scandinavia was part of the Soviet global strategy.



The Barents, Norwegian and Baltic Seas are rich in natural resources. Oil deposits were discovered on the continental shelf of Norway in the mid-sixties. The coastal waters of various North European countries are world famous fishing grounds. The sea-bed resources and fish in these coastal waters have also become objects of the Soviet revisionist social-imperialists' aggressive designs and plunder. Pushing big power politics, the Soviet revisionists rely on their big ocean-going trawlers and modern equipment to wantonly plunder

the fishery resources in these waters at the expense of the economic interests of the countries concerned.

The Soviet revisionists' fishery despotism has aroused indignation among the people in North European countries. A correspondent of the Swedish paper *Expressen* quoted angry Finnish fishermen as saying: Acting like vacuum cleaners, the Russians have taken away all the fish in our fishing grounds. Another Swedish paper said that Swedish fishermen in the Baltic Sea have become much worried about the big modern Soviet trawlers frequently fishing on their threshold.

Superpower's Expansion

"Menacing Shadow"

THE splendid arctic scenery and abundant maritime resources in the northern part of their country are a source of pride to the Norwegian people. They are disquieted and angered, however, by the fact that the two superpowers are casting covetous eyes on the area, particularly by the economic pillage and military threats of social-imperialism.

Bordering on the Atlantic Ocean, Norway has a mass of high mountains, glaciers and great forests. There are many islands off the coast. Its extensive, indented coast lines have many fiords and are fringed by rocky mountains. About one-third of the total area lies in the Arctic Circle where only 463,000 people live, making up 12 per cent of the nation's total population.

Northern Norway consists of three counties — Nordland, Troms and Finnmark. The warm Atlantic current brings mild winters and cool summers and keeps the seaports ice-free all year round. Fishing is the main occupation of the local people. These counties account for nearly half the country's fishing population, fishing grounds and total catches.

To step up plunder of the world's maritime resources, Soviet revisionist social-imperialism in recent years has made big efforts to develop its oceanic fisheries, and has established a huge fishing fleet. To contend with the fishing fleets of some Western powers for Norway's fishing resources, Soviet ships have operated in its coastal waters so frequently and so avariciously that the resources are in danger of becoming exhausted. Last summer, the Soviet Union unilaterally scrapped its agreement with Norway and Britain on cod catch quotas in the Norwegian part of the Arctic Circle.

Fishermen in northern Norway are calling for an extension of maritime rights to protect the country's fishing resources. The Norwegian Government recently announced its decision to extend as speedily as possible in 1975 the coastal fishing zone off northern Nor-

way from 12 to 50 nautical miles. Before this goes into operation, it has set off areas beyond the 12-mile fishing zone into which no foreign trawlers are allowed entry. As a co-sponsor of the proposal for a 200-mile economic zone, Norway has decided to establish such a zone as soon as an international agreement is reached. This will undoubtedly be a harsh blow to the greedy plundering of Norway's fishing resources by social-imperialism.

Rivalry between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, in the sea areas around northern Norway has become more fierce since oil and natural gas were located off the Norwegian coast. There is no delineated boundary between Norway and the Soviet Union over the continental shelf in the Barents Sea. The Soviet Union had never been interested in Norway's persistent proposal to open negotiations on the question of delineating such a boundary until oil discoveries in the North Sea made it think that there might be oil and natural gas in the Barents Sea. During the talks, this superpower racked its brains to seize greater control over the Barents Sea. But as Tor Oftedal, Chairman of the Foreign Relations and Constitutional Committee of the Norwegian Parliament, said: "Norway will yield nothing that belongs to its territorial sea."

The other superpower also is eager to get a finger in the pie. It sent an "investigation ship" last autumn to an area 200 kilometres west of Lofoten Islands to carry out illegal explorations of Norway's continental shelf in complete disregard of the latter's prohibition of any exploration and exploitation of its continental shelf resources above 62 degrees North Latitude before 1975. This has aroused strong resentment on the Norwegian side.

Northern Norway has 196 kilometres of common border with the Soviet Union. In accelerating contention with the other superpower for maritime hegemony

(Continued on p. 19.)

Socialist New Things Are Growing

— A visit to the Hsipu Production Brigade of the Chienming People's Commune

by Our Correspondents Hsiang Jung and Chou Chin

This is the second of two articles on a visit to the Hsipu Production Brigade. The first appeared in our last issue. — Ed.

Poor and Lower-Middle Peasants Manage Schools

The large number of schools established in the Chinese countryside after liberation provide the poor and lower-middle peasants and their children with an opportunity to study. Our schools are designed to train workers with both socialist consciousness and culture. However, before the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, the schools basically followed a revisionist line, with education divorced from proletarian politics, from the worker and peasant masses and from production. In order to effect a thorough change of the situation in which the bourgeois intellectuals controlled the schools, workers' Mao Tsetung Thought propaganda teams came to stay in the urban schools during the Great Cultural Revolution. At the same time Chairman Mao pointed out: "In the countryside, schools and colleges should be managed by the poor and lower-middle peasants — the most reliable ally of the working class."

In 1968 the Hsipu Brigade set up an educational revolutionary committee with poor and lower-middle peasants as its main body, and the committee has since formally taken part in the management of a nine-year school belonging to the brigade. The chairman of the committee is deputy secretary of the brigade Party branch Wang Jung and its permanent representative to the school is Wang Sheng, an elder poor peasant. The committee takes part in decisions on major issues in the school and sees to it that it keeps to the correct orientation. The school has to report to the committee on all matters relating to enrolment, examinations and curriculum.

After enrolment every year, Wang Jung tells the new students the history how Wang Kuo-fan led 23 households of poor peasants in setting up and running the "paupers' co-op" and educating them in the spirit of hard struggle and in always adhering to the socialist orientation.

Harshly exploited in the old society, Wang Sheng lost his sight as a result of poverty and disease. He had to beg in order to survive. With the concern of the Party after liberation, his eyes were cured and he regained his sight. Life has steadily improved and his family has built eight new brick rooms. The old thatched hut he lived in when he toiled for landlords

is deliberately kept unchanged. His house and personal history are living material to educate the youngsters in the contrast between the old and the new society. Wang Sheng often reminds the teachers and students to carry forward the spirit of the "paupers." This is an inspiration to them, so when the school's chairs and desks need repair, they do it themselves.

Once there was a student who would not bring his abacus to class because it was rather old. Wang Sheng took him to the hall of village history and showed him the abacus without side bars which had been used by the "paupers' co-op." Deeply moved, the student repaired his abacus and continued to use it.

Wang Sheng often goes to the school to listen to the teachers' lectures and when he finds something wrong he sets things right without delay. In explaining the term "yen wang debt," a teacher of Chinese said to the students: "Yen wang is a superstitious term which refers to the king of the underworld who controls everybody's birth, death and fate." Wang Sheng pointed out that this did not explain the class nature of this kind of debt. So he said: "A yen wang debt was a debt which would squeeze the very life out of you. In the old society the poor rented land from the landlords and after a year's back-breaking toil they could not even get enough grain to pay the rent. The landlords, however, were heartless and pressed them so hard that they often took their own lives. Such was the nature of yen wang debt."

With the school managed by the poor and lower-middle peasants, the educational revolution has had gratifying results and education has advanced very rapidly. All children of the poor and lower-middle peasants are in school. The commune now has four middle schools with more than 900 students and each brigade has a primary school, with combined enrolment at more than 2,100. The quality of teaching has also been enormously improved.

Destroy the Old and Foster the New

The revolutionary teacher Lenin said: "The working class is not separated by a Chinese wall from the old bourgeois society. And when a revolution takes place, it does not happen as in the case of the death of an individual, when the deceased is simply removed. When the old society perishes, its corpse cannot be nailed up in a coffin and lowered into the grave. It disintegrates in our midst; the corpse rots and infects us."

("Joint Session of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee, the Moscow Soviet of Workers', Peasants' and Red Army Deputies and the Trade Unions: Report on Combating the Famine," *Collected Works*, Vol. 27.)

The landlords' land in China was confiscated and socialist transformation of capitalist enterprises carried out. But ideas of the landlord and capitalist classes will not automatically step down from the stage of history and the existence of exploiting-class ideology is incompatible with the socialist economic base. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out revolution in the political and ideological fields and continuously clear out the old ideology.

In the course of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, the Hsipu Brigade has pounded violently at the old ideas, old culture, old customs and old habits. Precisely as Chairman Mao pointed out: **"Put destruction first, and in the process you have construction,"** the new ideas, new culture, new customs and new habits are being formed steadily in the countryside.

Working women suffered the harshest oppression in the old society. Women's status has gone through fundamental changes since liberation, but remnants of the old idea that "man is superior to woman" were still far from being wiped out. Prior to the Great Cultural Revolution, household chores were completely done by women in some families in Hsipu, and heavy household work prevented some women from taking a greater part in collective productive labour. In the course of the Great Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, many commune members came to realize better that looking down on women was the result of the pernicious influence of Confucian ideas and should be eliminated.

Chen Tsui-lan and her husband in the first production team are the team's leader and deputy leader. They consult with each other in their work and share the household chores. Now, it is rather common for men to prepare the meals and take care of the children after work. This enables more women to contribute their share to collective productive labour and 96 per cent of the brigade's women labour force now are working regularly in the fields or on other collective jobs. Women are driving tractors or making farm scientific experiments and have become an important force on the agricultural front.

In the past some peasants thought that the more children they had, the luckier they were. Influenced by the Confucian concept that "of the three unfilial things, the greatest is the lack of a male offspring," they wanted to have a son even though they might already have one or more daughters. Now things have changed. Before the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, woman commune member Yang Shu-lan wanted a son. But all her four children are daughters. During the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, she criticized the idea of man being superior to woman and was sterilized. She did this because both she and her

husband understand that times have changed and men and women are equal and they no longer consider not having a son regrettable.

Many men and women commune members realize that too many children can adversely affect the mother's health and the proper bringing up of the children. They, therefore, see the benefit of having children in a planned way. In general, the 141 women in the Hsipu Brigade of reproductive age use contraceptive measures. The brigade's birth rate fell below 1.3 per cent last year.

There was no more burning incense and worshipping gods in Hsipu before the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, but feudal and superstitious ideas had not all been removed from people's minds. An over 70-year-old woman at one time often quarrelled with her son and daughter-in-law because they opposed her worshipping gods. Her censer disappeared later and the family had long forgotten it. Recently, when the concept that "everything is decided by heaven" peddled by Confucius was criticized, she took out the censer which she had hidden for 18 years and smashed it. She said: "I offered incense and worshipped gods every day in the old society, but I had never lived well. I stopped worshipping them in the new society, but my life has improved every day. This is a result of the revolution. Therefore, we should believe in revolution and not in heaven." Another old woman who always wanted to keep her daughter-in-law under her control and at her beck and call realized through study that this was a feudal idea. So she took the initiative to do more household chores and let her daughter-in-law spend more time in collective production. This, she said, was her contribution to socialism.

A new type of relations is being built up among Hsipu's poor and lower-middle peasants. Members of the "Red Grannies" study group led by 74-year-old Chao Yu-chu have studied Chairman Mao's work *Serve the People* and discussed his teaching that **"all people in the revolutionary ranks must care for each other, must love and help each other."** Now they make helping others their duty. When they discovered that six households in the village needed help in washing cotton-padded clothes, they took upon themselves this task as well as all the needle-work of these households. They have been doing this for three years.

Led by the Party organizations, the poor and lower-middle peasants of the Chuenming Commune and the Hsipu Brigade have used different methods to occupy the rural ideological and cultural positions. We saw mass criticism columns on the walls in many commune members' homes containing articles or poems written by family members to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius. There were blackboard or wall newspapers on the same theme on the streets. To get better results, some commune members worked at improving criticism articles up to midnight.

We can also see clearly in Hsipu the far-reaching influence of the revolution in literature and art. The bad operas spreading feudal, capitalist and revisionist



Wang Jung, chairman of the educational revolutionary committee and an elder poor peasant, educates the youngsters in the revolutionary tradition.

ideas once popular before the Great Cultural Revolution have been driven off the stage and the new operas and films spreading socialist and communist ideas have replaced them. The brigade has its spare-time literary and art propaganda team which composes its own items for performances. The county literary and art propaganda team and troupes from Peking often come and perform model revolutionary theatrical works and songs and dances for the local peasants.

Co-operative Medical Service and "Barefoot Doctors"

The co-operative medical service and "barefoot doctors" are new creations of the peasant masses who rely on the collective strength to fight diseases.

Land reform was carried out in the rural areas after liberation and the impoverished peasants who got their own land were freed from exploitation by the landlords and rich peasants. With the advance of farm collectivization, the polarization into the rich and the poor among the peasants caused by the small-peasant economy was ended and the peasants took the socialist road of common prosperity. Because Liu Shao-chi pushed a revisionist line before the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, health work only served a small number of urban people, and doctors and medicines were lacking in the rural areas. At that time there was only one clinic, staffed by three doctors, in the Chien-ming Commune which had 14,000 people. When peasants became ill, they had great difficulty in getting medical treatment.

Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line in health work has been criticized since the beginning of the Great Cultural Revolution, and Chairman Mao's principle that "in medical and health work, put the stress on the

rural areas" has been implemented. The ranks of rural "barefoot doctors," who are not divorced from production, have rapidly expanded and the co-operative medical service has been established all over the countryside.

The Hsipu Brigade began training its own "barefoot doctors" in 1968 and set up its co-operative medical station in 1970. Of the station's eight "barefoot doctors," all but one are young people chosen from the production teams. These doctors have either attended six-month medical training classes run by the county or have been given short-term training. After several years of practice, especially because the doctors have fostered the idea of serving the people, the small medical station treats all common diseases for the brigade members on time and is very helpful to them. Every brigade member pays one yuan a year to the medical fund

and the brigade pays one yuan annually for each member out of its public accumulation. Thus brigade members get medical treatment and medicine without extra charge.

Chu Kuo, the responsible member of the station, told us: The "barefoot doctors" know the health conditions of the village's more than 1,100 people like they know the palm of their own hand and often visit the sick in their homes. Patients can send for a doctor at night. Rain or shine, cold or hot, doctors can be called to visit patients at any time. In a word, they will do whatever they can to relieve the patients' suffering.

These doctors also adhere to the principle of "putting prevention first." Apart from doing a good job in mass disease-prevention work, such as keeping the wells clean and the latrines in sanitary condition, they prepare preventive decoctions in advance and distribute them to the brigade members during seasons when infectious diseases may appear. Thanks to their efforts, some common epidemic diseases frequently seen in the past have disappeared in the brigade over the last few years.

While using Western medicine, the doctors also have encouraged the masses to collect medicinal herbs. Taking the co-operative medical service as their own affair, many brigade members collect medicinal herbs in the hills during their spare time and give them to the medical station. The brigade allots nearly one hectare of land to the station which has intercropped wheat with 22 kinds of medicinal herbs on the plot. More than enough for the brigade's own use, medicinal herbs harvested there are partially sold to the state

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ROUND THE WORLD

C.E.S.C.

A Snail's Pace

The second-stage meeting of the Conference on European Security and Co-operation (C.E.S.C.) was adjourned on December 20, the 4th adjournment since the meeting started in Ceneva one year and three months ago.

Since the opening of the second-stage meeting in September last year, the Soviet Union, an active C.E.S.C. initiator and advocate, has tried by hook or by crook to conclude it at an early date so as to convene as soon as possible a third-stage meeting to be participated in by heads of state of various countries. But this attempt has so far failed. The communique issued by the recent NATO ministerial session maintained that "important questions remain to be resolved" at the second-stage C.E.S.C. meeting.

The meeting has proceeded at a snail's pace since resuming for the third time on September 9 this year. This reflects the fierce contention in Europe between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as the sharper vigilance by many small and medium-sized European countries against the expansionist ambitions of the two hegemonic powers, especially of Soviet revisionism.

In the face of the serious threat from Soviet-U.S. rivalry, some small and medium-sized countries or non-aligned countries submitted to the meeting many proposals for safeguarding state sovereignty and national security. Representatives of some countries explicitly pointed out that matters concerning over 30 European countries cannot be determined by one or two superpowers. In view of the ever growing Soviet military strength in Europe, these countries have been especially vigilant against the recurrence of a Soviet surprise attack patterned on its armed aggression against Czechoslovakia. Therefore they insisted on

working out concrete "military measures aimed at strengthening mutual trust." However, the Soviet Union has all along been unwilling to reach agreement on the measures concerning notification of military exercises and acceptance of a comprehensive inspection. It even openly opposed the Romanian representative's proposal calling on all participating countries to reach agreement on the clauses banning the use of force against each other, especially intrusion into other countries' territories. The negotiations were thus stalemated in this regard.

On the question of the principles governing relations between states, 8 principles have now been preliminarily drawn up, with the remaining two and the preamble still to be drafted. The essence of the matter is that the Soviet Union has tried hard to secure from the United States and other Western countries recognition of existing frontiers in Europe, i.e., recognition of its sphere of influence there, so as to consolidate its positions in Europe and turn them into bridgeheads against Western Europe. This is strongly opposed by the United States and other Western countries; what they endeavour to achieve is just the opposite of the Soviet desire.

As regards the question of economic, technical and scientific co-operation, both the Soviet Union and the Western countries have clung to their own position and no agreement has been reached on such important questions as trade and the "most-favoured-nation clause," though some other clauses have been worked out.

The "free exchange" of personnel, information and culture has been one of the major problems at issue between the Soviet Union and the Western countries in the past few months. The latter have all the time tried to use "free exchange" of personnel and ideas to make a wider opening for infiltration into the East European countries. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, has done its best to reject the Western proposals in order to

maintain control over some East European countries. It was only after a protracted tussle and with the Western countries' dogged insistence that a few clauses were preliminarily drafted. Participants from the West insisted that a third-stage summit meeting would be impossible unless satisfactory results were achieved in this respect.

All this clearly shows that the so-called conference on security and co-operation actually is nothing but a form of intensified contention in Europe between the two superpowers.

CENTRAL EUROPE FORCE REDUCTION CONFERENCE

In Deadlock

Attended by the member states of the two military blocs, the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the conference on force reduction in Central Europe adjourned on December 12. Starting on October 30 last year, this conference has been adjourned three times and the latest round of talks, opening on September 24, made no headway after more than two months of wrangling.

The two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, have stuck to their respective "proposals for disarmament." To maintain and strengthen superiority over the West in ground forces in Central Europe and, at the same time, weaken the air and nuclear forces of the West, the Soviet Union called for reduction in equal numbers or at the same ratios of the two blocs' military strength, including air forces and nuclear armaments. The United States and other Western countries, however, proposed that the two blocs' ground forces should be reduced in stages to finally reach a highest limit of equal numbers, a proposal which aims at reducing and terminating existing Soviet ground force superiority in Central Europe.

In the latest round, the Soviet Union put forward "new proposals" which would require each of the two blocs to reduce in the year 1975 20,000 armed personnel and their equipment. The West rejected the "new proposals," describing them as

a "reincarnation of something that already had been discussed" and as another attempt to preserve the superiority of the Soviet ground forces in Central Europe. Austrian papers pointed out that these "new proposals" are just "a change in phraseology" and "have nothing new in essence."

While prating about "force reduction in Central Europe," the Soviet Union has been stepping up arms expansion and war preparations in Europe. The F.R.G. paper *Die Welt* on November 30 quoted the NATO Headquarters in Brussels as saying that "the Warsaw Pact has also continued its arms expansion at an accelerated tempo this year." "The Soviet Union has pressed forward in both the sphere of nuclear weapons and the sphere of conventional weapons. Its efforts are still centred on Central Europe," the paper added. The Soviet Union has not only sent more troops to Eastern Europe, but also equipped its land, navy and air forces in Europe with large quantities of up-to-date weapons. The Soviet Union "has strengthened its troops' combat power not only in the sense of defence but also in the sense of attack capability," the paper noted.

During his recent visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, U.S. Defence Secretary Schlesinger announced that the United States would send two more brigades to the F.R.G. U.S. Secretary of the Army Callaway said on December 12 that his coun-

try would send the first brigade to the F.R.G. next spring.

SOVIET UNION

New Intercontinental Missile Tests

The Soviet Union carried out another round of "carrier rocket launching" tests in the Pacific from December 11 to 13, the fifth round of intercontinental missile tests in the area since the beginning of the year.

A U.S. Defence Department spokesman pointed out that in this round the Soviet Union had launched two missiles of a kind which previously "had not been test-fired into the Pacific."

After the meeting between Brezhnev and U.S. President Ford in Vladivostok (Haichenwei), the Soviet press blared that the agreement reached at the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting was a "big step toward practically curbing the arms race." No sooner was this said than the Soviet Union conducted the new guided missile tests, making the Soviet revisionists' demagogic propaganda a complete mockery.

Facts have shown that Soviet social-imperialism has not stopped for a moment its rivalry with the United States for military superiority, including superiority in rocket-nuclear weapons. The Soviet journal *The Communist of the Armed Forces* disclosed that the Brezhnev clique's "policy on military techni-

que" is to "establish and maintain" "military superiority." The Soviet paper *Krasnaya Zvezda* also clamoured for achieving "superiority in force" and declared complacently that the Soviet Union is organizing a massive production of rocket-nuclear weapons for this purpose. Intensified tests and development of guided missiles and nuclear weapons by the Brezhnev clique are aimed at establishing military superiority to contend for world hegemony with the other superpower.

THAILAND

Decree No. 53 Repealed

At its December 8 meeting, Thailand's National Legislative Assembly decided to repeal Decree No. 53 banning imports from China and trade between the two countries.

The decree was repealed by a vote of 126:0. The decision is to go into effect as from the date the government communique on the matter is published.

Following the meeting, Thai Foreign Minister Charunphan Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya told the press: "Thailand and the People's Republic of China will develop normal trade relations between the two countries."

Enacted on January 17, 1959 by the former Sarit Thanarat government, Decree No. 53 prohibited the import into Thailand of all commodities from the People's Republic of China and had brought all trade between China and Thailand to a halt for more than ten years.

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and threatening the Norwegian people, Soviet revisionist social-imperialism has set up huge military bases along the Barents Sea coast where it has massed large military forces and deployed various kinds of nuclear weapons. The Kola Peninsula naval base is the most important one for the Soviet Union's Northern Fleet. Setting out from this base, Soviet naval vessels, strategic nuclear submarines in particular, sail between Greenland, Iceland and Faroe Islands from time to time.

Soviet social-imperialism has turned the Barents Sea and the Norwegian Sea into its "inland seas" from the point of view of strategy. While keeping close watch on the Soviet moves, the U.S. ruling clique is intensifying its strategic rivalry with the Soviet Union.

Contention between the two superpowers in Northern Europe, particularly social-imperialism's direct threat

to Norway's national security, has aroused uneasiness in the country. President of the Norwegian Parliament Guttorm Hansen declared in a statement that Soviet expansion casts a "menacing shadow" over Norway. Major General Nils Weyer Arveschoug, Air Force Commander in northern Norway, told visiting foreign newsmen that the Soviet marine corps frequently had engaged in landing manoeuvres close to the Norwegian border area and that Soviet tanks were deployed within a few feet of the Norwegian border in a military exercise in 1968.

The Norwegians are becoming increasingly vigilant against their eastern neighbour's menacing military activities. As time goes by, the Soviet leaders' "European security" and "detente" claptrap is believed by less and less people.

(Hsinhua Correspondent)

ON THE HOME FRONT

Vegetable and Fruit Supply in Peking

EVERY one of Peking's several million inhabitants is supplied with an average of about half a kilogramme of fresh vegetables daily. In the early days after liberation, each had less than one-third the present amount though the city's population was two-fifths its present size. Now fruit is also in ample supply and prices are low.

Peking chiefly depends on suburban people's communes and state orchards to supply its population with vegetables and fruits. Since liberation, the city government has paid a great deal of attention to ensuring the availability of these foods by adopting appropriate measures.

Vegetable-growing bases gradually set up in more than 1,200 production teams of 33 people's communes are scattered around the outskirts of the city. The communes and brigades keep in touch with the needs of residents through markets in every corner of the city, organize vegetable production according to state plan and deliver supplies with due concern for quantity, quality and variety. Freshness is ensured by shipping vegetables directly to market on trucks loaded out in the fields.

In order to reduce vegetable decay and waste in the peak periods and shortages in the off-seasons, growers, commercial departments and scientific research units have co-ordinated closely in experimenting with methods of growing the same kind of vegetables in more than one season and of storing vegetables in large quantities. Now tomatoes and cucumbers are planted nine to ten times a year. Storage time for over ten kinds of vegetables including tomatoes, green peppers and onions has been lengthened considerably.

The area sown to vegetables in Peking today is five times that of 1949. Thanks to the building of extensive water conservancy facilities by the people's communes, the expansion of

acreage under power-driven irrigation and the use of more chemical fertilizers, both gross output and per-unit yield have been greatly raised. This enables the people's communes to keep up the supply of vegetables to the city even during long dry spells.

The outskirts of Peking could only produce 20,000 tons of fruits in the early days after liberation. During the Great Leap Forward in 1958, cadres went to outlying suburban areas to plant fruit trees on bare mountain slopes and banks. Large orchards were cultivated and later expanded to over 500 hectares in area. Several dozen orchards set up in the suburbs since 1958 cover a total expanse of 3,000 hectares and produce up to 125,000 tons of fruits annually. Some of the brigades in the suburban people's communes also grow fruits. Peking now produces peaches, pears, apples, persimmons, apricots and over 100 other varieties of fruit. Some fruits are gathered in quantities large enough to supply not only the city but other places as well.

Peking residents now have fresh vegetables even in mid-winter from the city's 10,000 or more greenhouses. In recent years suburban vegetable farmers have experimented with the use of plastic sheets to cover their fields during the winter to grow vegetables. This has greatly increased vegetable supplies in winter and spring.

Vegetables and fruits harvested by production teams and state orchards are purchased and marketed by state commercial departments under unified planning. Marketing and purchasing prices set by the state are beneficial to growers as well as to consumers. State purchasing prices remain steady when vegetables and fruits are in season and are always higher than the market prices during that period. In winter and spring state purchasing prices are raised to correspond with the higher cost of vegetable production, while boosts in market price are comparatively less.

In event of losses due to natural calamities, the state subsidizes vegetable-growers to ensure that their income is not diminished because of reduced output. Whenever necessary in the course of purchasing and marketing, the state grants subsidies to guarantee city labouring people cheap vegetables and fruit, and also to lift the burden of any losses from the shoulders of the farmers. Actually, in respect to vegetables alone, every city resident receives a state subsidy of 1.5 yuan a year on the average.

Hospital-Run College

A NUMBER of medical colleges run by hospitals have sprung up even as such state-run institutions continue to develop. Shanghai's Huashan Hospital has gained some experience in this respect; it is another success for the current vigorously developing revolution in education.

This hospital began a three-year college level medical class in 1970 on a trial basis for 42 students. Before enrolment, all of them had done more than two years' productive labour on the farms and 18 had been "barefoot doctors" who also did farm work, worker-doctors or army medical attendants. Compared with students graduated before the Great Cultural Revolution, they had a higher level of political consciousness and greater ability in analysing problems. Under the leadership of the Party organization, they criticized, after enrolment, the revisionist line of the medical colleges before the Cultural Revolution which "would not let students get near medical knowledge in the first year, do clinical work in three years' study or come in contact with workers and peasants in all six years of study." These students persisted in putting politics in command and in integrating theory with practice.

The students spent four months each year in the countryside or factories in order to get into close contact with the workers and peasants, and this helped strengthen their ties with the labouring people and make them understand better the needs of the masses.

Teaching was done in the county hospitals or during treatment when mobile medical teams made their tours. They acquired special know-

ledge and techniques through practice, tackling the easier cases first before taking up the more difficult ones and gaining perceptual knowledge before raising it to the level of rational knowledge.

Take the way they were taught about appendicitis. Teachers first let the students question and check with the patients to learn the symptoms. They then analysed in the classroom the cause of the disease and its pathology, and let the students be assistants in performing the operations. Afterwards, in the light of the operations, anatomy of the relevant parts of the body was taught. On this basis the students summarized what they had learnt and raised their knowledge to a higher level. After repeated study and practice, they gradually mastered the theoretical knowledge concerned in a comparatively systematic way, and could diagnose and treat the disease by both Western and traditional Chinese methods and perform appendectomy independently.

After graduating in August last year, this group of students went to the countryside, factories or military units to work. One graduate who now is a surgeon has performed, in the past year, 50 big operations, including gastrectomy and resection of the thyrophyma. Another student, a young woman who now is an obstetrician, has done more than 20 Caesareans after graduation.

These worker-peasant-soldier graduates have made fine achievements in wholeheartedly serving the workers, peasants and soldiers. Six have

become medical department heads or have been promoted to other leading posts.

The Huashan Hospital's medical college has enrolled another class of 98 students. They too are rapidly maturing.

Rapid Expansion of Highway Communication In Shensi

HIGHWAY communication has developed rapidly in northwest China's Shensi Province, where mountains and highlands make up 80 per cent of the area. The total length of highways today is six times the pre-liberation figure, or 1.57 times that before the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Motor roads link up all the counties and 75 per cent of the people's communes in the province.

Communication and transport was very backward in Shensi before liberation. There were only 4,300 kilometres of motor roads, most of which were on the plains, and only 1,500 kilometres were open to traffic. In the hilly regions travel followed narrow, winding paths, and some places were practically inaccessible.

More than 40 trunk highways have been built by the People's Government since liberation. Other roads have been built by the people of various localities with help from the government. The labour force and materials required were provided by the nearby people's com-

munes and production brigades in accordance with the amount of benefit they would get, while the government organized the work, gave technical aid and subsidized the major projects.

Taipai County in the southern mountainous area of the province had only a primitive plank way along the cliffs in the past. A poet in ancient times likened it to a "passage for birds." The people of the county relied on their collective strength and built an 80-kilometre-long highway in 1958 when the people's communes were set up. During the Great Cultural Revolution the spirit of self-reliance and hard work was further developed: the people's communes in the county organized more than 1,500 of their members to open up this route through the mountains. Along one stretch about 3,000 metres above sea level, some 13,500 cubic metres of stone and earth had to be moved for every kilometre of road. To economize, they used home-made explosives, and improvised equipment to function in place of bulldozers. Four years of hard work has turned the "passage for birds" into a motor road.

Motor roads totalling more than 25,000 kilometres in length have stimulated exchange of products between town and countryside. The annual volume of goods transported by motor vehicles in Shensi Province today is 204 times the figure for the early post-liberation years.

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commercial department in exchange for other medicines and some medical equipment.

By making full use of the low-cost medicinal herbs and carrying forward the spirit of diligence and thrift (for instance, the station makes its own tablet pressing devices), the medical station has saved up a large fund. With expanded production and increased public accumulation, it is planning to offer free medical care to its members.

As a result of carrying out the correct line, medical and health work in the Chienming Commune has made rapid advances in the short period of the last few years. The commune has a hospital and all the brigades have instituted the co-operative medical service,

and there are altogether more than 70 'barefoot doctors.'

The new things that emerged in the course of the Great Cultural Revolution have left us with a deep impression on our visit. In *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*, Chairman Mao cited in 1957 the example of the co-operative led by Wang K'uei-tan to refute the saying that co-operative farming was no good. Chairman Mao pointed out: "New things always have to experience difficulties and setbacks as they grow."

Having worked hard for more than 20 years, the former 'pauper's' co-op has become a prosperous and thriving new village with a relatively high degree of mechanization. History has proved and will further prove that socialist new things are full of vitality.

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